

REMARKS

Based on a telephone communication with the Examiner on 11/19/2004, Applicants have canceled claim 8 and have rewritten claims 9 and 19- 23 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 8, and Applicants have further amended claim 9 to change "node" to "nodes" to clarify the invention. The Examiner indicated in said telecon that the claims, in accordance with the amendment herein, would be in condition for allowance.

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18

CONCLUSION

Based on the proceeding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0457.

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